

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

RSC-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 PM-03 AID-05 COME-00

EB-07 FRB-01 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 CIEP-01 LAB-04

SIL-01 OMB-01 AGR-05 /062 W
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R 021654Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8944

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEGUCIGALPA 0006

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, ECOM, HO

SUBJECT: CHIEF OF STATE LOPEZ' NEW YEAR'S ADDRESS

1. CHIEF OF STATE GENERAL OSWALDO LOPEZ DELIVERED HIS ANNUAL NEW YEAR'S ADDRESS TO THE NATION THE EVENING OF JANUARY 1. THE SPEECH WAS BROADCAST BY ALL THE COUNTRY'S RADIO AND TELEVISION STATIONS. LOPEZ BEGAN HIS PRESENTATION BY RECALLING LAST YEAR'S JANUARY 1 SPEECH DURING WHICH HE HAD ANNOUNCED THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (PND) AND THEN DESCRIBED HOW THE GOH HAD FULLFILLED SOME OF THE PLAN'S GOALS. HE SPECIFICALLY CITED THE CREATION OF THE FORESTRY AND INVESTMENT CORPORATIONS, THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MINIMUM WAGE LAW AND THE FORMATION OF BANASUPRO, THE GOH OUTLET FOR BASIC CONSUMER PRODUCTS.

2. LOPEZ ANNOUNCED, WITHOUT GOING INTO SPECIFIC DETAIL, THAT THE SUPERIOR DEFENSE COUNCIL HAD APPROVED THE DRAFT
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AGRARIAN REFORM LAW. HE SAID THAT IT WOULD NOT PLEASE

EVERYONE BUT THAT IT WOULD ACHIEVE ITS BASIC GOALS OF INCREASING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AND INCORPORATING MORE PEOPLE INTO THE ECONOMIC LIFE OF THE COUNTRY.

3. THE CHIEF OF STATE MADE A SHORT REFERENCE TO THE PROBLEMS WITH EL SALVADOR. HE SAID THAT THE GOH STILL INSISTS ON A "GLOBAL" SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEMS AND WILL SEEK SUCH A SOLUTION THROUGH NORMAL INTERNATIONAL CHANNELS.

4. LOPEZ ALSO SAID, DISCUSSING THE COUNTRY'S FUTURE, THAT THE GOH WILL BE GUIDED BY NO FOREIGN IDEOLOGY BUT WILL ACT WITHIN THE HISTORICAL HONDURAN CONTEXT. HE ALSO THANKED ALL THE AGENCIES AND GOVERNMENTS WHICH HAVE PROVIDED THELP FOR RECONSTRUCTION FOLLOWING HURRICANE FIFI AND EXPRESSED OPTIMISM THAT, WITH SUCH HELP, HONDURAS WILL RECOVER.

5. COMMENT: LOPEZ' SPEECH DID NOT CONTAIN ANY SURPRISES. IT WAS MORE A CATALOGING OF PAST ACTIONS THAN A FRAMEWORK WITHIN WHICH FUTURE GOALS WERE DEFINED. ITS MAJOR POINT WAS THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE APPROVAL OF THE AGRARIAN REFORM LAW. HOWEVER, THAT LAW'S APPROVAL HAD ALREADY BEEN REPORTED IN THE PRESS WITHIN THE LAST FEW DAYS.

6. HIS REMARK CONCERNING "FOREIGN" IDEOLOGIES WAS CLEARLY MEANT TO ANSWER CRITICS ON THE RIGHT AND THE LEFT. HIS COMMENT ON FINDING HONDURAN SOLUTIONS TO HONDURAN PROBLEMS WAS AN ATTEMPT TO EMPHASIZE THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS MOTIVATED BY PRAGMATIC CONSIDERATIONS RATHER THAN BY A RIGID IDEOLOGICAL VIEWPOINT.
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